

Bulletin by J.A.D. McCurdy and Alexander Graham Bell, July 6, 1909

MCCURDY'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE REPLY TO THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

July 6, 1909 :—My idea would be something like this. The new machine here will be in Petewawa about the 20th of this month. By that time the Silver Dart will be making some flights and public attention will be more or less attracted to that direction. Then when the new machine comes along they will sort of be ready for it and if she makes the flights as expected we will step down to Ottawa and say that here we have a brand new machine which flies and it does so and so; do you want to buy it? We would much prefer to sell our first machine to the Canadian Government.

If they say they do want to buy it the arrangement after that will be very easy. If they say they don't want to buy it but they would like to make some other proposition I would suggest we would for us not consider that all for the time. Then go down to Washington and submit a proposition before General Allen. Do you want to buy it? If he buys it then we will sell do it right off.

The second machine will be ready by that time. Then if the Canadian Government wants to buy it they can; and if they don't we will take this over to England as soon as we like. I think it is very important that we dispose of our one machine as soon as we can. Our plans for continued building will be very much simplified. We will have a guarantee then that we can sell machines and go right ahead and build more. 2 We will have the money from the first machine to go right ahead.

Another thing if we do dispose of a machine the prestige we will get from disposing of one to the American Government or to the Canadian Government will make our services to the Canadian for more valuable than if we do not sell at all. J.A.D. McC.

DR. BELL'S LETTER TO SECRETARY OF MILITIA COUNCIL

Baddeck, N.S., July 6, 1909 :— I have just returned from Europe and have consulted with Messrs. McCurdy and Baldwin concerning the letter of the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence addressed to me dated May 7, 1909.

Messrs. Douglas McCurdy and F.W. Baldwin have associated themselves together under the name of "The Canadian Aerodrome Company" and have been engaged for some time past in the manufacture of improved forms of aerodrome modelled upon the Silver Dart at Baddeck, Nova Scotia. I find that they have already completed one aerodrome and have another well under way.

If they can dispose of these aerodromes the proceeds will be employed to continue the manufacture of such machines in Canada. Their idea has been to offer their first Canadian machines to the Canadian Government which would, by purchasing them, be fostering the establishment of a new industry in Canada.

Should the Canadian Government decline to consider the purchase then they would offer the machines to some other Government. Upon the sale of these machines depends the establishment of this industry in Canada; for these young men have no capital of their own and have borrowed the capital necessary to complete the machines upon which they are now at work.

Mr. F.W. Baldwin is now at Petewawa with the aerodrome Silver Dart where he proposes to try out a new engine. In a short time Mr. McCurdy proposes to take the new aerodrome, the first built in Canada, to Petewawa and try it with the engine now there. If it turns out to

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be as successful as they anticipate Messrs. McCurdy and Baldwin will proceed to Ottawa and offer it to the Canadian Government.

I filed that Messrs. McCurdy & Baldwin would be very much pleased if some arrangement could be made which they should give They would be glad to make some arrangement to give their services to the Department of Militia and Defence as Specialists in Aviation as suggested, & they and would be glad to receive from the defendant a a some proposition as to terms and conditions.

After the experiments with the new aerodrome at Petewawa they would be glad to They will be in very soon and will hope to be in request to visit very soon and hope to personally with the Minister of Militia on his representative give their views as to what mentioned they? funds they consider should be provided next year for the pursuit of Aerial Investigation, Construction and Navigation on the Government's behalf.

As both these I am gentlemen you will be in Petewawa very soon in personal contact with the members of the Department I shall refer you them and need say nothing further on the matter.

Yours respectfully, (Signed) Alexander Graham Bell.